THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Periodicity of issue of Public Distribution System items to consumers from Fair Price Shops is prescribed by State Governments|Union Territory Administrations and is either weekly, fortnightly or monthly, which would take into account, amongst other things, the purchasing power of the consumers in the State|Union Territory.

FURNISHING OF PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR RATION CARDS

288. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that insistence on furnishing of permanent address by the claimants for ration cards deprives the most vulnerable sections of the society the access to the public distribution system; and

(b) the steps the Government intend to take to ensure that the weakest of the weak including the migratory labour and pavement dwellers are not deprived of this facility meant primarily for them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) . (a) and (b) Implementation of the Public Distribution System, including setting out the criteria for eligibility for ration cards, are decided by the State Governments|UT Administrations. The Central Government has, however, advised the State Governments|UT Administrations to cover the uncovered population and to supply ration cards to each family both in rural and urban areas.
(Translation)

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE IN BIHAR

289. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population living below poverty-line in Bihar as per the latest survey; and

(b) the efforts made or proposed to be made by the Government to bring them above the poverty-line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R BHARDWAJ) : (a) Based on the provisional results of 43rd Round of National Sample Survey on household consumer expenditure, the percentage of population below poverty line in Bihar is estimated at 40.8 per cent in 1987-88.

(b) Apart from developmental efforts at creation of income and employment through growth in agriculture, industry and services, etc., special programmes for alleviation of poverty are also being implemented. These include programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as well as some special programmes for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[*English*]

ROLLING BACK PRICES OF EDIBLE OILS ETC.

290 SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the average retail prices of Diesel, Kerosene, Salt and Edible Oils in July, 1990;

(b) the average retail prices of same articles as obtaining in June, 1991.

(c) the steps being taken to roll back prices of aforesaid articles to levels obtaining in July, 1990; and

(d) whether the Government propose to complete the task of rolling back prices by October, 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and (b) A Statement showing the average retail prices of Diesel, Kerosene, Salt and Edible Oils as in July, 1990 and on 14th June, 1991 (latest available) is attached

(c) and (d) Government attaches the highest priority to reducing inflation and would adopt necessary measures towards this end Efforts, would also be made to restrain growth in monetary supply, effect economy in Government expenditure, encourage small savings, ensure better supply and demand management of "sensitive commodities", strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentive for higher production in the medium term A Cabinet Committee has been set up on 13-7-1991 under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister to monitor the price situation of essential commodities and ensure their supply These measures are expected to have desirable effects on rising trends of prices

STATEMENT

Average Retail Prices of Diesel, Kerosene, Salt and Edible Oils on 27-7-1990 and 14-6-1991

Items	Units	Average Retail Prices (in Rs)	
		27-7-1990	14-6-1991
1	2	3	4	5
Diesel	Litre	4 39	5 40
Kerosene	Litre	2 39	2 97
Salt (Common)	Kg.	1 04	1 36
Ground nut oil	Kg	32 50	38 81
Mustard Oil	Kg	29 98	33 13
Coconut Oil	Kg	41 13	48 91
Vanaspati	Kg	35 98	39 93

Source Directorate of Economics & Statistics Ministry of Agriculture

OUTLAY FOR RURAL SECTOR

291 SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allocate 50 per cent of public sector outlay on programme and projects for the benefit of rural and agricultural sectors during 1991-92,

(b) if so, the outlay fixed for the rural sector during 1991-92, and

(c) the programmes being undertaken in rural areas with this outlay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H R BHARDWAJ) (a) and (b) Based on the allocations specified in the Interim Budget of Central Government for 1991-92, the share of outlay benefitting rural areas in budgetary support for the Central Plan is about 51% This amounts to about Rs 9450 crores out of the total budgetary support of Rs 18550 crores in the Central Plan of 1991-92, as indicated in the Interim Budget.

(c) This outlay is provided for the programmes under major development heads like agriculture, rural development, irrigation and flood control, power, transport, village industries, health, family welfare, education and water supply.